

JAN 16 2007

Art Unit 2627
Serial No.: 10/788,653Reply to Office Action of: 08/29/2006
Attorney Docket No.: R1888**REMARKS****OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 4 because the leads 430 and 435 were mislabeled as 440 and 445, respectively. Applicants have corrected this error in amended Fig. 4 (see the clean and marked-up versions of Fig. 4 reflecting this amendment in Appendix A of this response). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-30 are pending. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 5-7, 13, 15-17, 23, and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 8, 18, and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for lack of antecedent basis for the term "the flat profile of the shield layer." Claims 1-2, 4, 8-12, 14, 18-22, 24, and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,847,508 issued to *Tanaka*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND TRAVERSAL OF REJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended to include all of the limitations of now-canceled Claims 2-3, 12-13, and 22-23, respectively, except for the functional limitation "to provide stability and sensitivity to the read element," which does not appear to have been given any patentable weight in the Examiner's determination of allowability (Office Action, p. 3, paragraph 4, and p. 4, paragraph 7). Accordingly, based on the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of Claims 3, 13, and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and the fact that deleting the limitation in question does not appear to affect the allowability of Claims 1, 11, and 21, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 11, 21, and their respective dependent claims are allowable. For at least

Art Unit 2627
Serial No.: 10/788,653

Reply to Office Action of: 08/29/2006
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these reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 11, 21, and the respective dependent claims of those claims.

Claims 5, 15, and 25 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims, except for the functional limitations "to provide stability and sensitivity to the read element" and "in order to reduce side track reading," which do not appear to have been given any patentable weight in the Examiner's determination of allowability. Accordingly, based on the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of Claims 5, 15, and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and the fact that deleting the limitations do not appear to affect the allowability of Claims 5, 15, and 25, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5, 15, and 25 are allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5, 15, 25, and the respective dependent claims of those claims.

Claims 8, 18, and 28 have been rewritten to depend on Claims 5, 15, and 25, respectively. Claims 5, 15, and 25 each provide antecedent basis for the term "the flat profile of the shield layer." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 8, 18, and 28 are no longer indefinite and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

JAN 16 2007

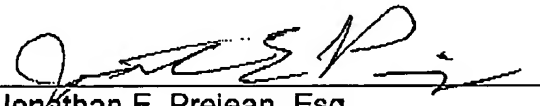
Art Unit 2627
Serial No.: 10/788,653Reply to Office Action of: 08/29/2006
Attorney Docket No.: R1888**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance and request reconsideration of the rejections. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a Petition for two-month Extension of Time be granted under 37 CFR 1.136.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1055.

Respectfully submitted,

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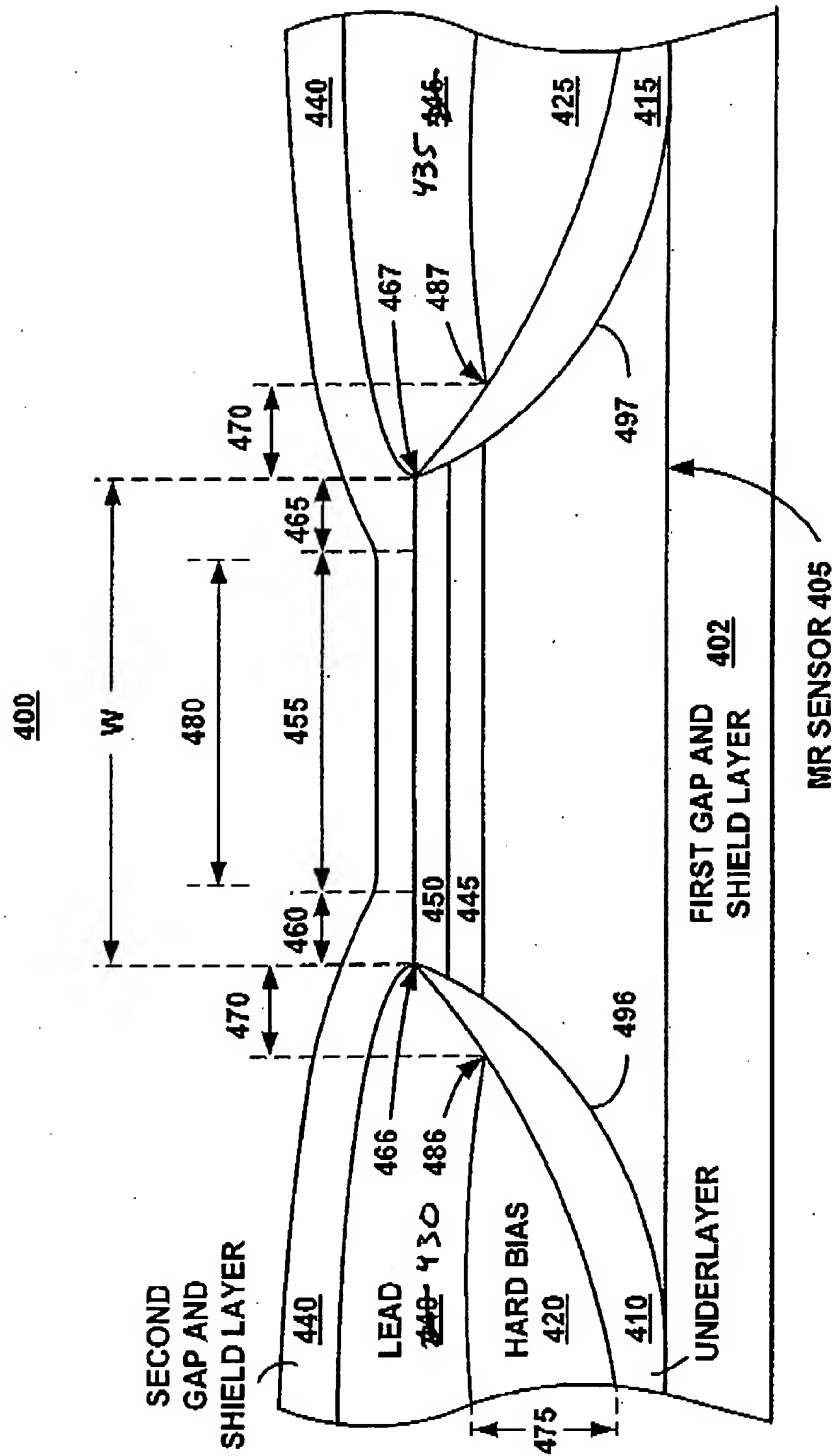


FIG. 4

APPENDIX A